

REMARKS

Claims 4, 7-9, 13, 14 and 16-21 are pending. By this Response, claims 4, 6-9, 13, 16 and 19-21 are amended. Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 11, 12, 15, 22-28, 30-39, 42-45 and 47-48 are cancelled. Also, the drawings are corrected and a new title is added. Reconsideration and allowance based on the above amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to the title as not being descriptive. Applicants have provided a new title "System for Managing Slack in Fiber Optic Cables Connected to a Circuit Board" which is more descriptive of the invention. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to the drawings under 35 C.F.R. §1.83(a) for failing to show features described in the specification. Specifically, the Office Action alleges that the reference numeral 17 is not illustrated in Fig. 1, clip 50 between points B and D is not illustrated in Fig. 1 and the leading and trailing edges described in the specification is not illustrated in Figs. 6 and 7. Applicants provide the following comments.

Applicants respectfully submit that reference numeral 17 is illustrated in Fig. 1A. Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to the middle of the circuit board where the reference numeral can be found. In regard to Figs. 1B and 1C, applicants have corrected these Figs. to include reference numeral 17.

In regard to clip 50, applicants note that the addition of clip 50 to the circuit board illustrated in Fig. 1 is a feature of one of the embodiments of the

invention. The specification clearly discloses that elevation of a Y-cable can be accomplished by providing supporting clips 50 at points B and D. The specification then refers to Figs. 9 and 10 which illustrates clip 50. See page 6, lines 8-9 and Figs. 9 and 10. Points B and D in Fig. 1A is clearly marked and clip 50 is clearly illustrated by Figs. 9 and 10. Thus, clip 50 is properly shown in the drawings as required under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a).

In regard to the leading and trailing edges, applicants respectfully submit that the leading and trailing edges are shown in Figs. 6 and 7. Applicants refer the Examiner to page 6 of the specification, lines 15-17. This section of the specification states “radius guide 30 (the same description is equally applicable for radius guide 30') has raised walls 32 and 34 which form leading and trailing edges, respectively.” It is evident from the specification that the raised walls 32 and 34, which are illustrated in Figs. 6 and 7, correspond to the leading and trailing edges. In other words, raised wall 32 is the leading edge and raised wall 34 is the trailing edge. Thus, the leading and trailing edges are illustrated in the figures.

The Office Action also objects to the drawings because the claimed leading and trailing edges are allegedly not illustrated therein. As indicated above, the leading and trailing edges are illustrated within the figures and thus satisfy the requirements under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a).

In view of the above, applicants respectfully submit that the drawings are in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a). Accordingly, withdrawal of the objections are respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 39, 38 and 42-44 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 38, 39 and 42-44 have been cancelled by this Response. Thus, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph is moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5, 7, 10, 11 and 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Clapp, Jr. et al.; claims 6 and 8-9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Clapp, Jr. et al. in view of Cole, et al. and claims 12, 15, 22-28, 30-37, 45-47 and 48 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Clapp, Jr. in view of Gatica, et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants note that claims 13 and 16 have been rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and all intervening claims. Claims 4, 6-9, 14 and 19-21 have been amended to depend from either claim 16 or claim 13. The rest of the claims have been cancelled. Since claims 13 and 16 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter and are now amended into independent format, the rest of the claims being either dependent therefrom or cancelled, applicants respectfully submit

that the rejections in regard to the claims are now moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above, applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. Applicants earnestly solicit prompt allowance of the application.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicants respectfully petition for a three (3) months extension of time for filing a reply in connection with the present application, and the required fee of \$950.00 is attached hereto.

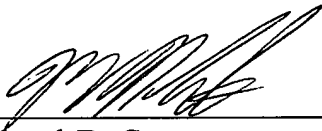
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Chad J. Billings (Reg. No. 48,917) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Appl. No. 10/002,472

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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MRC/CJB:cb
4450-0199P

Attachment(s)

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